



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

NOV 12 2012

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Pursuant to the Committee's September 20 request for documents related to the September 11 attacks in Benghazi, we have identified a third tranche of potentially responsive records, including records specifically requested by the Committee.

As with the previous two tranches, this third set of materials contains classified and other sensitive information, including information about the security of U.S. diplomatic missions overseas, foreign government information, and personal privacy information, the unauthorized release of which could cause damage to national security and foreign relations. Mindful of these considerations, the Department is making copies of these records available for the Committee's *in camera* review.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to respond to your November 1 letter inquiring about media reports regarding documents that *Foreign Policy* stated its journalist found at the Benghazi Compound on October 26. You asked whether the information included in these documents was memorialized in any cables, telegrams, or e-mails prior to the attack or in any post-attack review. The documents, which *Foreign Policy* has posted online, reference communications by Benghazi mission staff with Libyan authorities seeking security support from local Libyan forces for the Benghazi mission; they also describe an incident that occurred on the morning of September 11 involving local national guards who reported observing an individual who appeared to be a Libyan policeman taking pictures of the Benghazi facility, also publicly reported September 13 by CNN.

The Honorable

Darrell Issa, Chairman,

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform,

House of Representatives

The Department has not had access to the original draft documents posted by *Foreign Policy*. However, based upon our review of the images posted online, the materials appear to be draft documents created on September 11 and maintained in Benghazi. To date, our search and review of Department materials has not produced these documents, which suggests that they were not shared electronically with Department personnel outside of Benghazi.

While our search has not identified these particular documents, we have identified two documents that are responsive to your November 1 request; they are included in this third tranche of documents. To the extent that further responsive documents are identified as our document production continues, we will include in future productions.

We also want to address your concern that the documents published by *Foreign Policy* are inconsistent with statements made by a State Department briefer on October 9 that “everything [was] calm at 8:30 p.m.” outside of the Benghazi mission on September 11 and that “[t]here has been nothing unusual during the day at all outside.” That reference was with respect to whether our personnel witnessed protests outside the compound before the attack occurred.

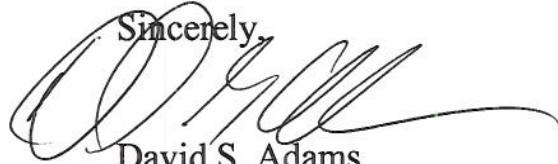
The documents posted by *Foreign Policy*, together with the two documents produced in tranche 3, demonstrate that our security professionals on the ground were actively engaged with Libyan authorities regarding the assignment of local forces to areas outside of the mission, and were in the process of responding to the picture-taking incident the morning of September 11. The incident did not occasion our security professionals on the ground to call an Emergency Action Committee (EAC) meeting or immediately notify Washington. With incidents of this nature, over thirty thousand of which globally have been reported to the Bureau of Diplomatic Security so far in 2012, our security professionals will conduct those follow-on actions they deem appropriate, including, in certain instances, notifying the host nation and reporting to Washington.

It is critical that we do all that we can to ascertain the facts regarding the attack in Benghazi. The American people, and especially the families and colleagues of those we lost in these attacks, deserve a full accounting. That is why Secretary Clinton appointed an Accountability Review Board (ARB) to assess whether our security systems and procedures in Benghazi were adequate given the threat environment, whether those systems and procedures were properly implemented, and any lessons we can learn for the future. The Department will continue its efforts, alongside our interagency colleagues and Congressional

partners, to reach the most accurate understanding possible of the events of September 11.

Please contact me so we can arrange for your review of these documents. Congress has been and must continue to be a full partner in providing for the security of our diplomatic and development professionals overseas. We look forward to continued cooperation on this important effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Adams', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

David S. Adams
Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs

cc: The Honorable Elijah Cummings
The Honorable Jason Chaffetz
The Honorable John Tierney